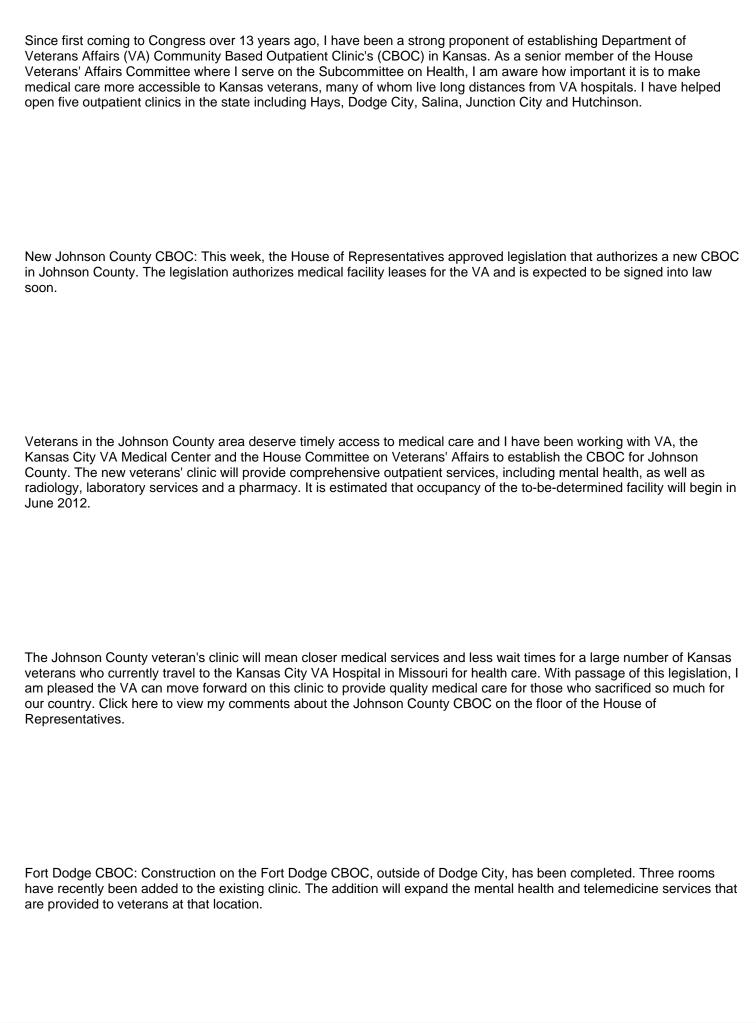
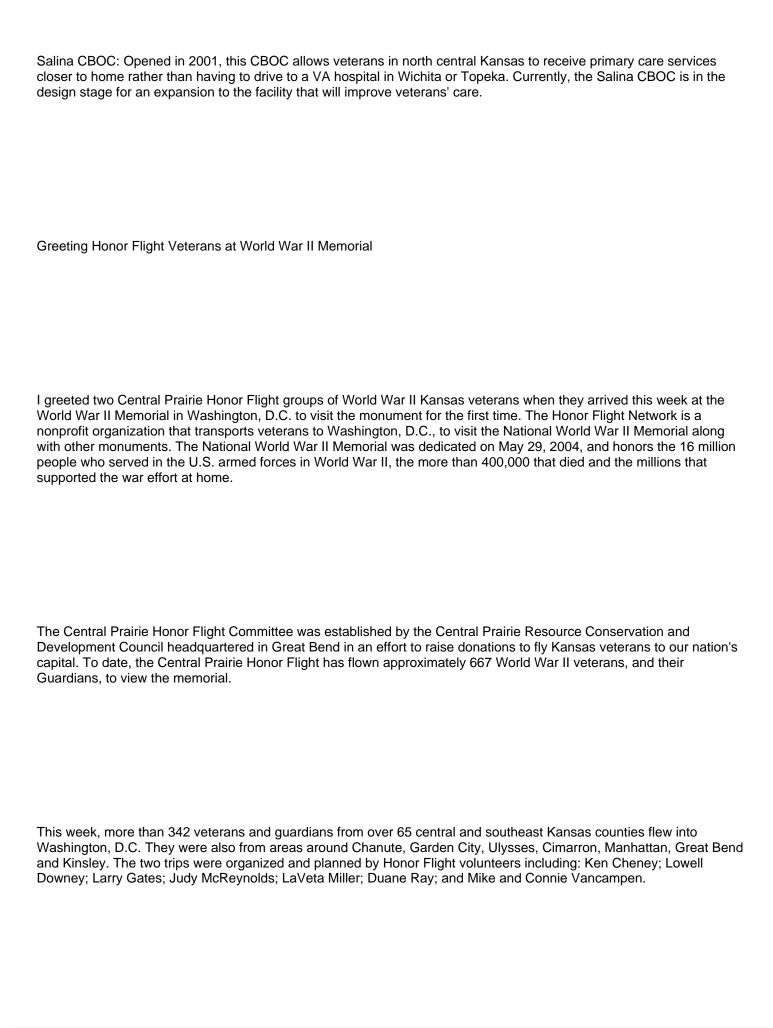
## 10/12/2009 This Week in Congress This Week in Congress October 12, 2009 Dear Friend, Welcome to "This Week in Congress." Legislation to Cease "Czar" Appointments

From conversations with Kansans, I have heard their concerns about the recent increase of "czars" appointed to the administration. "Czars" are Presidential appointees named to serve as policy advisors or agency heads within the administration. These individuals are appointed by the administration and are not required to go through the Senate appointment process.

I have taken action by introducing H. Res. 778 - a resolution to formally express Congress' opposition to the "czar" appointment process while calling for the President to cease all "czar" appointments. I have also sponsored legislation that will prohibit an unconfirmed appointee's salary from being paid. It is time Congress stops the executive branch from abusing this flawed appointment process. Click here to view my most recent comments about "czars". Click here to read more.

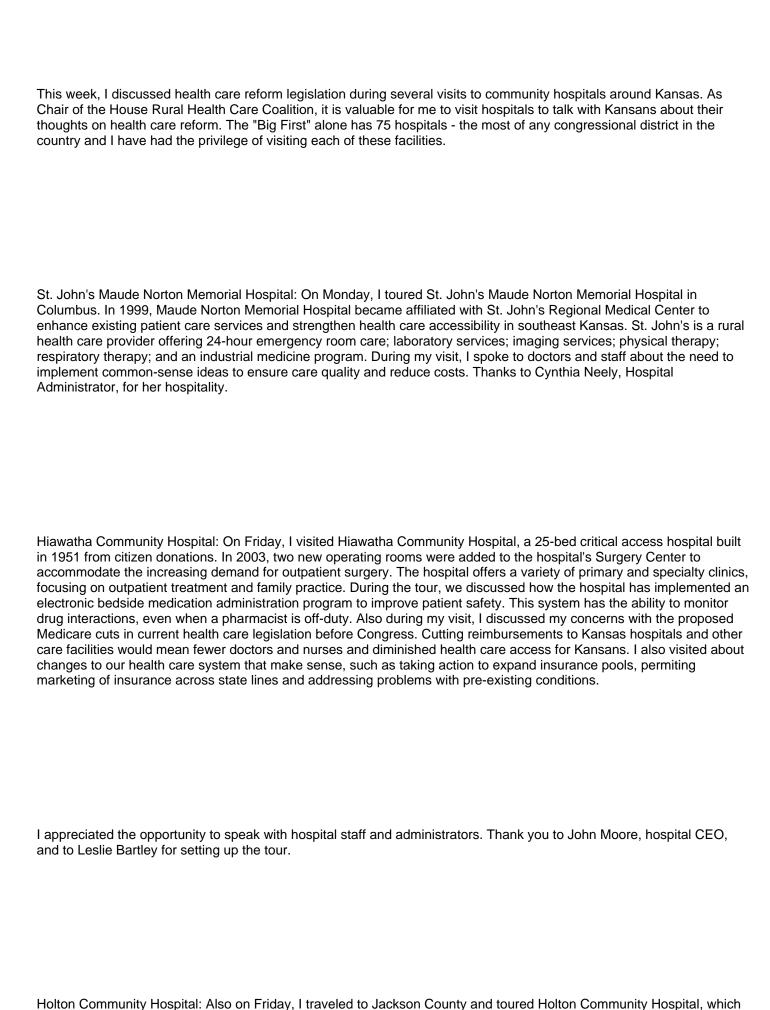


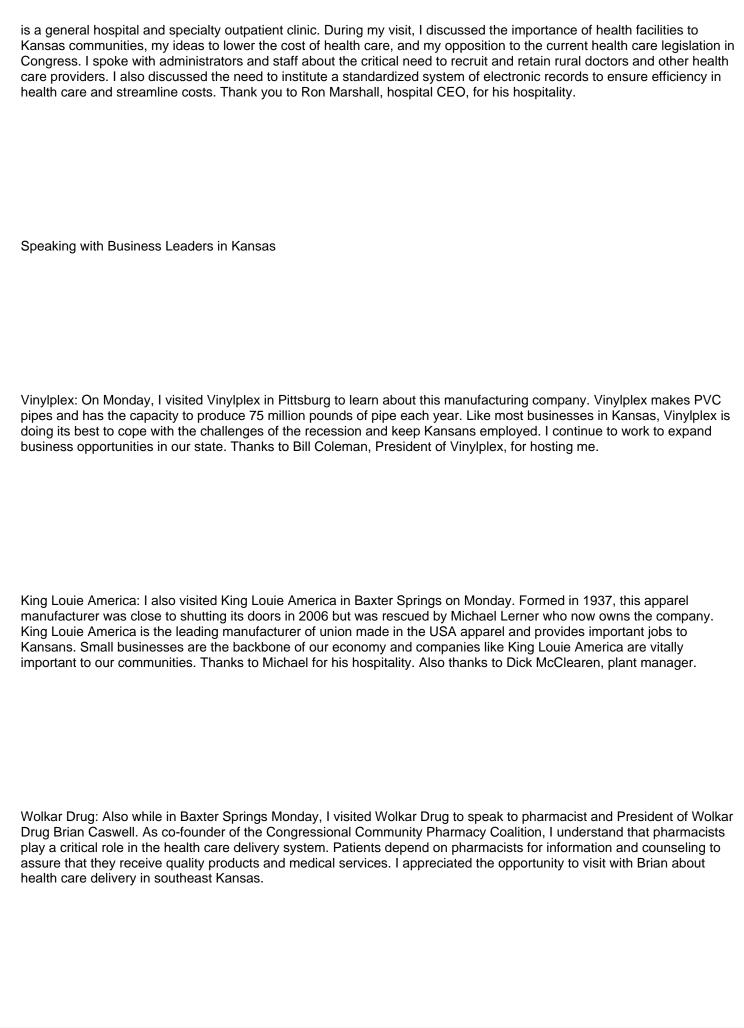


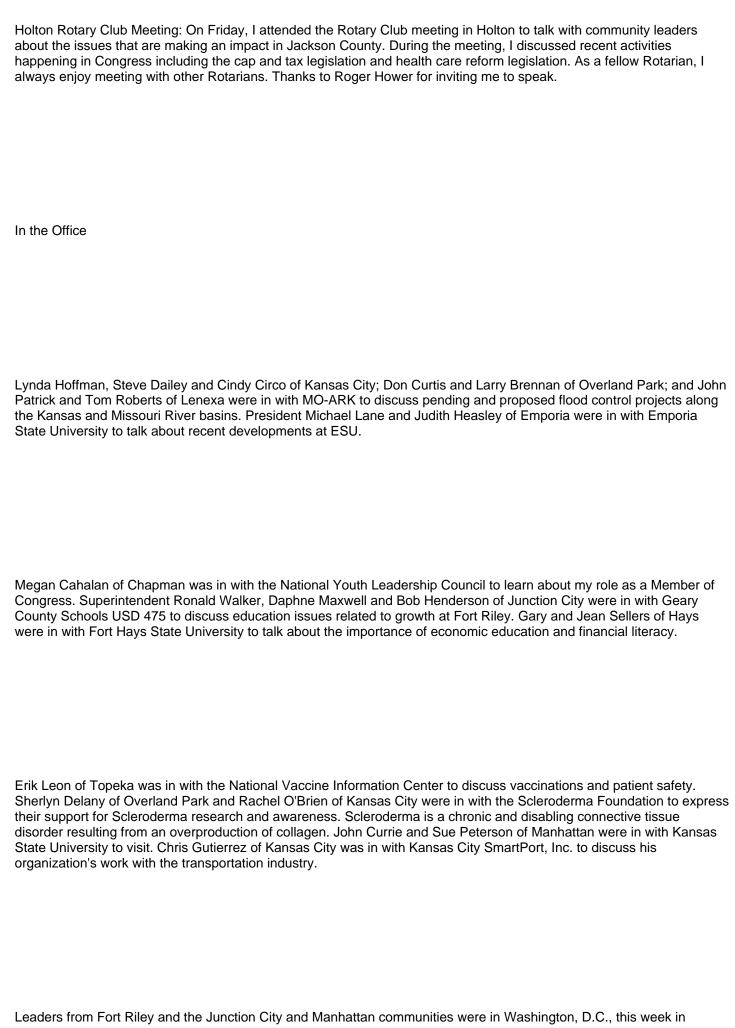
It was an honor for me to observe such true patriots examine the place they hold in history and to see that their dedication and service has been forever commemorated. For more information about Honor Flight, please click here.
Opposing Federal Aviation Administration User Fee
This week, I joined several other Members of Congress to express our opposition to President Obama over the institution of a user fee as a means of funding the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The current system of funding the aviation trust fund is proven to be a reliable foundation for our aviation infrastructure. User fees have been proposed as an alternative to the current funding structure. I oppose user fees in aviation because I believe they would place an undue burden both in terms of administration and cost on small businesses and general aviation users. It would also be harmful to the aviation industry in Kansas.
In President Obama's budget for this year, his administration suggested moving toward a user fee structure in the future. My colleagues and I urged President Obama to drop the user fee issue once and for all and also requested that he not submit this flawed idea again when he submits next year's budget to Congress.
Attending Agriculture Subcommittee Hearing
Wednesday, I attended a House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research hearing to review implementation of the conservation title of the 2008 Farm Bill. During the hearing, the committee heard testimony from Jonathan Coppess, Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Dave White, Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). I stressed to Administrator Coppess that FSA needs to develop a long term plan for operation of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Millions of acres are set to expire over the next few years and farmers have little idea about whether the contracts will be eligible for reenrollment in the program. FSA needs

to develop a system that will allow farmers to make long term planning decisions.

I also used the hearing as an opportunity to remind Chief White that under the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP), NRCS must give priority to water quantity conservation projects. During the 2008 Farm Bill, I inserted language within the AWEP section that gave priority to projects that aim to decrease water consumption in water short areas like western Kansas. To date, NRCS has yet to implement that priority, but I received reassurances from Chief White that the provision would be implemented properly in the future.
Meeting with Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City
On Tuesday, I met with members of the Home Builders Association (HBA) of Greater Kansas City. For more than 65 years, the HBA of Greater Kansas City has supported the home building industry to help keep the housing industry strong. The organization is comprised of more than 1,300 member companies and it supports more than 36,000 jobs in the Kansas City metropolitan area. During the meeting, I spoke with the members about my recent request to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that the expiring First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit be extended and expanded. Unless Congress takes action soon, this valuable credit will expire on November 30th. I also discussed legislation I have sponsored that would extend the \$8,000 credit for two years, expand eligibility to include not just first time buyers but all buyers, and would allow those who purchased homes under the first \$7,500 credit to not have to repay the loan.
Thank you to Phil Perry, Vice President of Governmental Affairs for HBA, for the invitation to speak.
Visiting Community Hospitals to Discuss Health Care







conjunction with the annual convention of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA). We visited about education, housing, transportation and other needs in the area to improve the quality of life for service members, their families and area residents. Commanding General Vincent Brooks, Lt. Col. Ralph Kauzlarich and Traci Scott were in with Fort Riley. In with the group from Junction City were Mike and Susan Guinn, Terry Heldstab, Mike Rhodes, Jack Taylor, Ben Bennett, Larry Hicks, Denise Ott and Jeffrey Black. In from Manhattan were Lyle Butler, Bob Strawn, Ron Fehr, Loren Pepperd, Bevin Landrum, Dick Wertzberger, Fred Willich and Mike Shilling. John Armbrust of Manhattan was also in with the Governor's Military Council.
Several Kansans visited my Washington, D.C., office to receive a tour of the United States Capitol, including Corey Peterson of Topeka, Gary and Jean Sellers of Bunker Hill and 28 attendees of the Central Prairie Honor Flight program. Also in for a tour from Wichita were Morris, Betty and Sarah Hund; Beverly Sauerwein; and Dennis Kerschen.
Very truly yours,
Jerry